

## CLAIMS

1. - An *in vitro* method of determining whether or not an individual has metastasized colorectal cancer cells comprising the steps of examining a sample of extraintestinal tissue and  
5 body fluids from an individual to determine whether ST receptor protein is being expressed by cells in said sample.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein expression of said the ST receptor protein by said cells is determined by immunoassay wherein said tissue sample is contacted with detectable  
10 antibodies that specifically bind to ST receptor.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein expression of said the ST receptor protein by said cells is determined by ST receptor binding assay wherein said tissue sample is contacted with labelled ST receptor ligand.
- 15 4. The method of claim 1 wherein expression of said the ST receptor protein by said cells is determined by polymerase chain reaction wherein said tissue sample is contacted with primers that selectively amplify mRNA or cDNA that encodes ST receptor protein.
- 20 5. An *in vitro* method of determining whether or not a tumor cells is a colorectal tumor cell comprising the steps of determining whether said tumor cell expressed ST receptor protein.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein expression of said the  
25 ST receptor protein by said tumor cells is determined by immunoassay wherein said tissue sample is contacted with detectable antibodies that specifically bind to ST receptor.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein expression of said the ST receptor protein by said tumor cells is determined by ST

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~~receptor binding assay wherein said tissue sample is contacted with labelled ST receptor ligand.~~

8. The method of claim 5 wherein expression of said the ST receptor protein by said tumor cells is determined by  
5 polymerase chain reaction wherein said tissue sample is contacted with primers that selectively amplify mRNA or cDNA that encodes ST receptor protein.

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